

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-9.

Please replace claims 10 and 11 with amended claims 10 and 11.

- Do not  
cancel  
10/11/01
- 10. (Amended) A method of identifying a therapy that decreases a symptom of rheumatoid arthritis comprising:
- (a) treating a mouse of the isolated mouse strain of claim 12 with a potential therapy; and
  - (b) determining whether the potential therapy decreases a symptom of rheumatoid arthritis in the mouse.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the symptom is selected from the group consisting of arthritis in a foreleg or hind leg joint, joint stiffening, appearance of pannus, lymphocyte infiltration into joint cartilage or bone, destruction of joint cartilage or bone, production of rheumatoid factor or autoantibody against type II collagen, and hypergammaglobulinemia. --

Please add claims 12-19.

-- 12. An isolated mouse strain from BALB/C mice, comprising a trait of developing natural onset of rheumatoid arthritis.

13. A mouse which belongs to the isolated mouse strain of claim 12, and has ATCC accession No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant : Shimon Sakaguchi  
Serial No. : 09/284,114  
Filed : April 7, 1999  
Page : 3

14. The isolated mouse strain of claim 12, wherein the rheumatoid arthritis represents one or more symptoms selected from the group consisting of: arthritis in a foreleg or hind leg joint, joint stiffening, appearance of pannus, lymphocyte infiltration into joint cartilage or bone, destruction of joint cartilage or bone, production of rheumatoid factor or autoantibody against type II collagen, and hypergammaglobulinemia.

15. A method of producing offspring of an isolated mouse strain from BALB/C mice, wherein the isolated mouse strain comprises a trait of developing natural onset of rheumatoid arthritis, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) mating between mice of the isolated mouse strain in a maintained colony repeatedly to produce offspring;
- (b) screening the offspring for the trait of developing natural onset of rheumatoid arthritis.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the rheumatoid arthritis represents one or more symptoms selected from the group consisting of: arthritis in a foreleg or hind leg joint, joint stiffening, appearance of pannus, lymphocyte infiltration into joint cartilage or bone, destruction of joint cartilage or bone, production of rheumatoid factor or autoantibody against type II collagen, and hypergammaglobulinemia.

17. A method for producing a mouse strain from BALB/C mice comprising a trait of developing natural onset of rheumatoid arthritis, comprising the steps of:

- a) repeated mating between BALB/C mice in a closed colony to produce offspring; and
- b) screening the offspring for the trait of developing natural onset of rheumatoid arthritis.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the mouse strain is the mouse strain ATCC accession No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant : Shimon Sakaguchi  
Serial No. : 09/284,114  
Filed : April 7, 1999  
Page : 4

Attorney's Docket No. 07898-038001 / PH-425PCT-  
US

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the rheumatoid arthritis represents one or more symptoms selected from the group consisting of: arthritis in a foreleg or hind leg joint, joint stiffening, appearance of pannus, lymphocyte infiltration into joint cartilage or bone, destruction of joint cartilage or bone, production of rheumatoid factor or autoantibody against type II collagen, and hypergammaglobulinemia. --